

CENTRE FOR ACADEMIC TECHNOLOGIES

Techno trends in teaching

Volume 1, Issue 1

April 2015

Technology ensures accessibility for all

The Office: People with Disabilities (DU) at UJ employs **software and hardware technologies** that ensure accessibility and equal opportunity for all our visually impaired students as well as other students with various disabilities.

Visual impairment ranges from moderate to total blindness. Services and technology offered by DU to support these students include:

- **Converting electronic text into braille** or braille into Word format for editing

purposes by using ABYY Fine reader Optical Character Recognition software, the Braille express 5000 embosser and the Duxbury Braille Translator 11.5 software.

- **Screen reading software** such as JAWS (Job Access with Speech) and NVDA (Non Visual Desktop Access) that read out loud any on-screen text and every action that is being done on the computer.

- **Magnification software** and devices, such as ZoomText magnifier and reader, and Izoom. These

programs enlarge the screen for ease of reading and also have a built-in text to speech application.

Similar technologies are being used to support students with **other disabilities**, such as dyslexia and learning disabilities. These include: ClaroRead, WordQ and SpeakQ, Dragon NaturallySpeaking, Read & Write Gold and many more.

For further information please contact the DU at 559 3745/3398 or disabilityunit@uj.ac.za

Online resources for skills development

There are 16 **MS Office** 2013 courses available online, including Word, PowerPoint and Excel – all with basic, intermediate and advanced levels with a short test after each session. These courses are available in **uLink** under **Modules and Communities**. When doing it for the first time, you have to **enlist** on uLink.

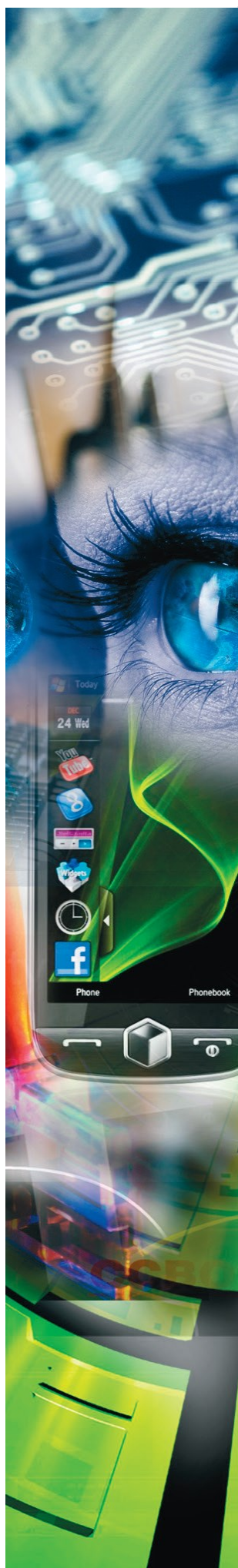
A **CAT staff** member will respond within 48 hours to supply the necessary username and password.

Some lecturers encourage their students to do the course during class in the first two weeks of the year.

We are in the process of arranging the issuing of

certificates on completion of these courses.

In the beginning of the year face-to-face sessions on basic MS Office are offered by **CAT staff** members. For more **information**, please contact Mrs Puleng Motshoane at 559 3083 or Mrs Emily Mthembu at 559 2297.





On board with Blackboard

Student view

This new functionality in Blackboard offers instructors a student view in the module they are creating. Once an instructor has logged into Blackboard, the



icon

appears next to the **Edit mode** function.

When selected, an **Entering Student view** message will appear.

While in student view mode, a button to **Exit student view** is visible where the **Edit**

mode usually appears.

When exiting the student view, three options are available to delete or retain the data entered during student view. Thereafter the **instructor view** will be visible for further editing.

APPsolutely!



The following free app can be used on a tablet:

BigMind Mind Mapping

Description:

BigMind is a user-friendly tool for creating a mind map for teaching and learning purposes. You can record ideas, notes

and to-do lists while compiling information for yourself and students in the class or when preparing for a lecture.

It is intuitive by nature and can also be utilised for personal productivity.

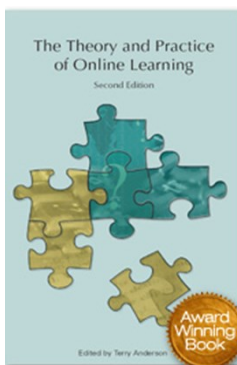
Features:

Topics, colours, borders,

shapes and text can be changed within a selection of mind mapping styles.

This app is available at: <https://itunes.apple.com/za/app/bigmind-mind-mapping/id659843103?mt=8>

What's on our e-bookshelves?



The following award-winning e-book is available in the UJ library collection:

Anderson, Terry. 2008. The theory and practice of online learning (second edition).

Athabasca Univ Press.

Contents:

Part I: Role and function of theory in online education development

and delivery

Part II: Infrastructure and support for content development

Part III: Design and development of online courses

Part IV: Delivery, quality control and student support of online courses

"Every chapter in the widely distributed first edition has been update-

ed, and four new chapters on current issues such as connectivism and social software innovations have been added.

Essays by practitioners and scholars active in the complex, diverse, and rapidly evolving field of distance education ... [and] practical attention to the details of teaching and learning."

uShare: CAT's Technology-in-teaching seminars

CAT just loves success stories and stimulating debate about the **innovative and effective use of technologies in the classroom**. In 2014 we decided to provide a platform for the sharing of these stories by experts in the UJ community by means of a series of seminars. The purpose was to share best practices, establish a culture of collaboration, create professional awareness and foster reflective practitioners.

This initiative started small with a first lunch-hour seminar on **Exploring as-**

essment apps for tablets

by Edith Phaswana on 20 May 2014. We then decided to move the timeslot of these seminars to late afternoon/early evening in the Madibeng Council Chambers with a small catered function afterwards, in order to give a more prestigious flavour to these seminars and to attract larger audiences.

The second seminar titled: **Addressing issues of learning design in the 21st century: Authentic learning in practice** presented by Geoff Lautenbach was hosted on 22 August,

and the last CAT seminar for 2014 on 5 November, titled: **To flip or not to flip**. Robert Huberts and Jacqui Chetty discussed and shared different views and experiences regarding flipping the classroom or not, leading to vibrant debate during the question and answer session, which continued during the small function hosted afterwards.

These evening seminars were well attended by colleagues from both UJ and other institutions, and provided great **collaboration and information sharing opportunities**.



Dr Edith Phaswana
Anthropology &
Development Studies



Prof Geoff Lautenbach
Science & Technology
Education



Dr Robert Huberts
Chemical Engineer-
ing Technology



Ms Jacqui Chetty
Applied Information
Systems

Technology integration by two Tech Newbies

This is the topic for the Technology-in-teaching seminar on **Thursday, 23 April, from 16:00 – 17:30**. Keep your eyes on the UJ mail for the invitations and diarise the following

seminar dates for the rest of the year:

1 June 2015
30 July 2015
29 September 2015
8 October 2015
4 November 2015

You are invited to come and share these opportunities and expand the network and community of practice in the field of technology and teaching!

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Smart use of academic technologies

The primary purpose of the Centre for Academic Technologies (CAT) is to promote the use of innovative academic technologies in order to fulfil its vision of 21st century skilled academia at the University of Johannesburg.

The aim of this news bulletin is therefore to keep the UJ community informed about available academic technologies and resources and how we can support you in the smart use of these technologies.

Services provided by CAT:

Access

- uLink** – integrated website for all services at UJ. Available at ulink.uj.ac.za. Access to Blackboard modules and communities, administrative self-help services, library services, research software, PsyCaD, UJDigispace and campus timetables
- uLearn** – your online courses available on your smartphone
- uHelp** – help you solve your technical problems, in uLink and uGo
- uGo** – a mobile app for your smartphone, available at ugo.uj.ac.za. Here you have access to uHelp, Blackboard, the library services, UJ events, staff directory, news, emergency contacts, academic programmes, admission, application, registration and social media.

Blackboard

This is UJ's Learning Management System available on **uLink** (web resource) and **uGo** (smartphone app). For technical support you can use **uHelp** or contact the **helpdesk** at uhelp@uj.ac.za or 011 559 3580.

Skills development

Basic computer and tablet skills workshops for all staff and students on request. Contact Dr Wilma Elston at wilmae@uj.ac.za

Online MS Office training modules available in the Blackboard Communities in uLink.

PERLS (Programmed English Reading Language System) – a computerised program for reading and comprehension enhancement, allowing the students to progress at their own pace and time.

Academic writing and research tools

Academic writing development and plagiarism tools – DOC Cop, Viper, SafeAssign, Turnitin, iThenticate and e-rater

Research software – SPSS, AMOS, ATLAS.ti, STATA and Acrobat Professional

E-submission of research products – available in uLink

